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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR/ESTONIA

SUBJECT Oil Industry

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SUPPLEMENT

1. The community of Kohtla-Järve has emerged from the war and its aftermath as the leading center of Estonian oil industry. The oil plant has been restored and is now in full production whereas other plants are still suffering from war damage.
2. The reported concentration of labor and industry in Kohtla-Järve is substantiated by the following:
 - a. By decree of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet of Estonia, Kohtla-Järve was on 4 April 1947 separated from the Province of Virumaa and made an independent town. Together with other towns which have been separated from their provinces -- Tallinn, Tartu and Pärnu by virtue of their size, Baltiski because of its military importance, and Narva because of the Russification policy being carried on there -- Kohtla-Järve is now directly subject to the Supreme Soviet of Estonia.
 - b. Kohtla-Järve, normally a small community of a few thousand inhabitants, nominated at least three candidates (one of them being the well-known Russian Zdanov) for the 1947 Supreme Soviet elections. This indicates at least 30,000 people, many of which must be Russians.
 - c. A plant capable of supplying the growing population of Kohtla-Järve with 25,000 kg of bread daily is under construction. Grain mills and storehouses are also being erected. The new plant would be able to feed 80,000 men according to present rations (300 grams daily).
3. Plans to obtain fuel-gas by burning oil-shale are now materializing. An experimental gas battery designed for this purpose was successfully tried out in the Kohtla-Järve plant on 3 April 1947. The battery produced its first cubic meters of fuel-gas with a heating capacity of 4,150 calories. This is reported to be the first machine of its kind. Gas thus obtained will be conducted to Tallinn and Leningrad for industrial use. Pipe-lines in both directions are under construction. The gas will also be used to run power plants, a number of which are planned in the oil district. The one in Kohtla-Järve is to have a capacity of 12,000 kw.
4. Machinery for these new projects is being supplied by the Soviet-owned plant Riiklik Tehas Number 9 (State Plant No. 9) in Tallinn.

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